

been very aggressive in prosecuting financial crimes

Far from fulfilling the promise of the authors of Sarbanes-Oxley that it would protect economic growth by creating a favorable investment climate, Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act has raised the costs of doing business, thus causing foreign companies to withdraw from American markets and retarding economic growth. By criminalizing inadvertent mistakes and exceeding Congress's constitutional authority, Section 404 also undermines the rule of law and individual liberty. I, therefore, urge my colleges to cosponsor the Due Process and Economic Competitiveness Restoration Act.

ACCESS TO LEGAL PHARMACEUTICALS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my Republican colleague, CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, and my Democratic colleagues, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ in the House and Senator LAUTENBERG in the Senate, I am introducing the Access to Legal Pharmaceuticals Act, which will ensure that a woman's access to birth control cannot be denied by pharmacists who have personal objections to certain legal prescriptions.

A disturbing trend has recently erupted in drug stores across the nation: some pharmacists are refusing to fill women's prescriptions for legal contraception. It's happening everywhere: in small towns and large cities, in the north and the south. And it's happening to all women, whether they are young or old, married or single, with children or without. In some cases, the pharmacists are refusing to tell women where they can fill the prescription; in others, they are refusing to return the prescription paper back to the women. These women are frequently ridiculed and lectured by these pharmacists about their choice to use birth control pills.

It is incomprehensible that in the 21st century, we are living in a time where women are having to fight for their right to obtain birth control pills. Something must be done so that this assault on privacy does not continue to invade the bedrooms of American women. The Access to Legal Pharmaceuticals Act, ALPhA, protects an individual's access to legal contraception. It requires a pharmacy to ensure that if a pharmacist has a personal objection to filling a legal prescription for a drug or device, the pharmacy will ensure that the prescription is filled without delay by another pharmacist who does not have a personal objection. This act also ensures that if a prescription drug is not in stock, and it is a type of drug that the pharmacy routinely carries, such a drug will be ordered without delay.

A November 2004 poll conducted by CBS and the New York Times indicated that 8 out of 10 Americans believe that pharmacists should not be permitted to refuse to dispense birth control pills. This opinion was strong despite party affiliation—85 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of Republicans polled squarely opposed pharmacist refusals. The Access to Legal Pharmaceuticals Act reiter-

ates the beliefs of the majority of Americans and the principles of our Constitution: that women have a fundamental right of access to birth control.

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF JOSE DANIEL FERRER GARCIA, A POLITICAL PRISONER IN CUBA

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the shameful imprisonment of Mr. Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, a pro-democracy activist in Cuba who has been jailed for his outspoken leadership in the Cuban democracy movement.

Mr. Garcia is the regional coordinator for the Christian Liberation Movement in Santiago Province. Through this leadership position, he has mobilized many Cuban youth for democratic change, and has focused on accomplishing the movement's chief objective: to unite citizens that are willing to defend and promote human rights and achieve changes in the Cuban society through peaceful means.

As part of the March 2003 crackdown on Cuban dissidents in which 75 prodemocracy activists were arrested by the Castro regime, Garcia was captured and sentenced to serve 25 years in prison. The prosecution had originally requested that Garcia receive the death penalty. Currently jailed in a prison located in Western Cuba, Garcia is being held over 1,000 kilometers away from his wife and two young sons.

Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia has dedicated his life to achieving positive change in Cuba. He has worked in an effort to bring the basic rights that we enjoy in the United States to the Cuban people, and has been imprisoned for 25 years because of these efforts. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that the United States Congress continue to oppose the Castro regime and adhere to the travel and aid sanctions that are currently in place for Cuba. Mr. Garcia, along with his brother Luis Enrique and activists such as Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, have been willing to risk their freedom so as to ensure that their fellow countrymen can truly be free. They need and deserve the support of the United States, and I ask that my colleagues join me in urging that the Administration call for their immediate and unconditional release.

LIBERTY LIST ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, in his second inaugural address in January, President Bush declared that "the survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world." Today, along with my colleague from Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, I introduce legislation to aid that expansion by honoring the work of courageous men and women all over the world who strive to advance human rights

and democratic values within their own countries and throughout the international community.

The Liberty List will be an independent annual report issued by the State Department to highlight the work of individuals and organizations, including the media, who promote the development of liberty, democracy, and respect for human rights. In addition to honoring these individuals and organizations for their important contributions to their societies, the Liberty List will draw attention to the conditions against which the honorees struggle and will offer some protection for honorees by identifying them to the international community. A few individuals and groups, such as Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League, for Democracy NLD, are known around the world for their struggle. Yet, for every individual who is known to the international community, there are many other heroes who deserve recognition and support as they risk their own lives for the improvement of others.

The Liberty List is fundamentally different from the existing State Department Report on International Religious Freedom and the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. Current reports focus on the human rights records of national governments; they deal with the imposition of state power. The Liberty List, in contrast, will spotlight individuals and organizations who are working against that power to build freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights.

Leaders in the struggle for freedom and democracy around the world deserve recognition for the sacrifices and their struggles. It is through the work of individuals, who struggle at the local and national levels to improve the lives of their families, friends, and neighbors, that democracy, freedom, and human rights will prevail. The Liberty List Act will establish a means by which the United States can honor these men and women as they strive to make the world a better, safer place.

I urge my colleagues to join Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and me as cosponsors of this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO TIM BURGESS, M.D.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, a tribute to my father, Dr. Tim Burgess, from his close associate and friend, Arvin Short.

Intelligent, competent, compassionate, loving, wise, fatherly, nurturing, clever, witty, emotionally kind and concerned. Harry Meredith Burgess was all of these and more. He was one of the finest people I have ever known and he was literally the best doctor I have ever met.

I came to Denton in 1974 full of vinegar. After meeting and spending 10 minutes with Tim, I knew, without a doubt, that I wanted and had to work with this man. And at that very moment, although I had been to medical school for 4 years and spent 5 years in surgical residency, I began my training as a doctor.

Tim Burgess did not demand, command, plead or suggest. He taught by example, quietly and competently. He, more than any other person in the field of medicine, made me a physician.